

Fighting erupts in Beirut's suburbs

BEIRUT (R) — Street battles erupted Friday in Beirut's Shi'ite southern suburbs where some foreign hostages are believed held. Police said the fighting, involving rocket and machinegun fire, was between the Shi'ite Amal militia and the Mikdad clan, linked to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). They said the clashes engulfed several streets in the Hizbollah stronghold. Some of the 79 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon, are reported held in the area. The Mikdad clan is noted for its links with Hizbollah. Many of its members are active in the radical militia. It was not immediately known if the fighting was linked to the abduction on Wednesday of U.S. journalist Charles Glass and Ali Ouseiri, son of Lebanon's defence minister (See page 2). Amal, a close Syrian ally, has been participating in efforts to determine the whereabouts of the three men. A security source said Hizbollah was linked to the kidnappings, the first since more than 7,000 Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut last February. Hizbollah has repeatedly denied any involvement in the kidnapping of foreigners. The Syrians did not deploy in the sprawling southern suburbs but took positions surrounding the area from three sides.

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Israel said sending technicians to China

LONDON (AP) — A published report Friday said Israel was secretly sending military technicians to China to refit and modernise hundreds of Soviet tanks and heavy artillery for the Chinese army. The Times of London, in a report attributed to unidentified Israeli sources, said many of the technicians work for private arms companies but their work has the tacit approval of the Israeli government. The newspaper said the technicians have been upgrading the Soviet tanks with new fire-control systems, laser range-finders and, in some cases, new guns for about one year as relations between China and Israel grow warmer.

Soviet riot youth to face firing squad

MOSCOW (R) — A student has been sentenced to death by firing squad for manslaughter during riots last December in Alma-Ata, capital of Soviet Kazakhstan, the republic's Communist Party newspaper said. In its June 17 edition, Kazzakhtskaya Pravda said four other men including two students had been sentenced to strict-regime labour camp terms of from 15 years for their part in the Dec. 17-18 riots. Two people died and some 200 were injured in the rioting, which followed the removal of veteran Kazakh leader Dinmukhammed Kunayev and his replacement by an ethnic Russian, Gennadiy Kolbin, as party chief in the Central Asian Republic.

Reagan meets Habre

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan met Chad President Hissene Habre at the White House on Friday for talks expected to cover Chad's successful battle to oust Libyan forces in its country last March. The United States provided material support for Mr. Habre's forces and officials here were delighted when they inflicted a humiliating defeat on the Libyan army. Mr. Habre, here for a five-day official visit, was sure to get a warm welcome during his talks with Mr. Reagan and other officials who see Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi as a threat to his country's neighbours and a supporter of "terrorism."

No accord yet on North testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North and the congressional Iran-contra committees have failed so far to work out the "grounded agreement" the panels are seeking to guarantee Col. North's testimony, a Senate spokesman said Friday. Lance Morgan said a meeting between the lawyers Thursday night had proved "inconclusive," indicating no agreement had been reached. The Senate panel met Friday to hear reports on the lawyers' discussions regarding the fired White House aide who managed the secret arms sale to Iran and the private resupply programme to Nicaragua's contra rebels. Mr. Morgan said although he expects further talks between the lawyers, no conclusion is likely to be reached in the next day or so because the house is out of session and members of the house panel are not available for consultations.

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Waldheim looking forward to Jordan visit for talks on bilateral ties and Mideast

Former U.N. chief praises King's contributions to peace

Austrian leader says allegations over his past are probably linked to his country's policy

From George Hawatmeh in Vienna

ON THE eve of his visit to Jordan, Austrian President Kurt Waldheim says he looks forward to his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and to discussing ways of cementing Austro-Jordanian ties as well as contributing to the search for peace in the Middle East and the world at large.

"I highly appreciate the invitation of His Majesty, because Jordan plays a key and unique role in the international community," Dr. Waldheim said in an interview with Jordanian newspaper editors here earlier this week. "Therefore it gives me great pleasure to go to Jordan and do something more concrete in the bilateral and international fields as well as in the field of efforts to try to find ways and means to settle the crisis in the Middle East," he said. "His Majesty King Hussein is one of the leading figures in the international community, and he has made tremendous efforts to contribute to a solution to the

Palestinian problem," the president said. "So I am looking forward very much to our talks with His Majesty and the government of Jordan, to discuss, first, direct issues of mutual interest, and then the situation in the area and thirdly the international situation."

"Needless to say the future of the situation in the Middle East will be decisive for world peace," Dr. Waldheim said in the two-hour long interview over lunch at Vienna's classic and ornate Sacher Hotel. "I used to say as U.N. secretary-general that there would be no international peace as long as the Middle East question was not solved, and that it



was our duty to make every effort to achieve a peaceful and lasting settlement in the area."

The Austrian president said Jordan and Austria, coming as they are from different geographic regions of the world, both have a good chance to assist in finding peaceful solutions to world problems, especially since the two countries share rich experiences in international affairs.

"Of course, our cooperation cannot on its own solve problems, but neither can the big powers alone," Dr. Waldheim said, "but I am a great believer in the role



that can be played by smaller and middle-sized countries which are situated in delicate parts of the world — the example here being Jordan in the Middle East, and Austria in Central and East Europe."

"This is in fact one aspect of my visit to Jordan: to put together our experiences and to try to make a contribution to resolution of different problems around the world," Dr. Waldheim said, adding that he was very impressed by His Majesty

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Perez de Cuellar sees improved prospects for Mideast conference

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday he believed that prospects for a Middle East peace conference had improved.

He told a news conference he was awaiting results of a 10-day mission to the area that U.N. Under-Secretary for Special Political Affairs Marrack Goulding began on June 13.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said Mr. Goulding was in the Middle East to help assess the chances of a Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Goulding was due to also go to Egypt and to Tunisia to see Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had been in touch with all the parties concerned — Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and the PLO.

"I have found some improvement, as compared with previous years, in the sense that now all parties, including some fraction of the Israeli government, are prepared to discuss an international peace conference," Mr. Perez de Cuellar said.

"There has been some improvement, not enough to declare myself pleased and satisfied, but there is some movement."

"What is not clear in my mind is what kind of conference the

Masri holds talks in Copenhagen

In Denmark on Thursday, Mr. Taher Masri, the Jordanian foreign minister, met with his Danish counterpart and discussed the role the European Community can play in the efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Mideast.

Mr. Masri called for an active Danish role in efforts for Middle East peace and stressed the need for holding the proposed peace

conference to be attended by all parties concerned without any preconditions.

In an interview with Danish Radio, Mr. Masri said that his visit to Copenhagen was aimed at briefing Danish officials on the situation in the Middle East and familiarising himself with European efforts made for Arab-Israeli peace.

Mr. Masri added that the Danish foreign minister and other officials expressed full understanding of the role the EC states could play.

Taking part in the discussions was also Sherif Fawwaz Sharaf, Jordan's ambassador to West Germany and non-resident ambassador to Denmark.

On other topics, the U.N. top executive said:

— The U.N. peacekeeping force in Cyprus will remain in place despite Sweden's announced withdrawal of its contingent. The move is "regrettable" and raised concern, but ways of replacing the Swedes are being sought.

— He was "extremely disappointed" that leaders of Western industrialised nations at the Venice summit called only for a dialogue with developing countries to help solve their economic problems instead of formulating concrete policies.

Gemayel meets Goulding

BEIRUT (Agencies) A senior U.N. official met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel on Friday as part of a regional tour to discuss prospects for an international Middle East peace conference.

U.N. Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding told reporters he also had talks with acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss. He declined to give details of the discussions.

An official Lebanese source quoted by Reuters said Lebanon was monitoring Middle East peace moves "and will take part when necessary, especially when the Palestinian issue is discussed."

A presidential spokesman said Mr. Goulding told Mr. Gemayel that U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was "deeply involved in preparations to hold the proposed conference."

The spokesman said Mr. Goulding also informed Mr. Gemayel of "the views and positions of the concerned parties" regarding the international conference.

Mr. Goulding flew in Thursday after a swing that took him to Syria, Jordan and Israel. He was expected to leave for Egypt and Tunisia, where he plans to meet with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has criticised Mr. Goulding's plans to meet with Mr. Arafat saying such a move is "unnecessary since no good or use can come from a meeting with Arafat."

Mr. Goulding was expected to return to Beirut next week to discuss the future of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with Lebanese officials.

UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said Friday a Nepalese peacekeeper was seriously wounded in the chest by machinegun fire. He said the firing came from a position manned jointly by Israeli soldiers and their ally, the South Lebanon Army militia.

In another development, a senior PLO official said in Baghdad that the PLO was to seek contacts with the Lebanese government to clarify the situation after Beirut's abrogation of the Cairo agreement covering the Palestinian presence in Lebanon.

The official said this was decided by the PLO's Executive Committee.

Blast kills 12 in Barcelona

BARCELONA (AP) — An explosion in the garage of a department store Friday killed at least 12 people and injured 51, the Barcelona civil governor's office said. Basque separatists claimed responsibility. The bodies of the victims — six women, four men and two children — were found in the underground parking area of the Hipercor department store in central Barcelona, the office said. Firefighters told reporters most of the deaths appeared to result from asphyxiation due to thick clouds of smoke caused by the 4:15 p.m. explosion. The national news agency EFE reported that a man who said he spoke for the Basque separatist group ETA told the Barcelona daily Avui newspaper 30 minutes in advance that a bomb would go off at the store. There was no indication that authorities tried to evacuate the area before the explosion. Sources at the department store told Spanish national radio (RNE) they did not receive a warning call.

UAE leaders continue efforts to settle Sharjah power struggle

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates' Supreme Council sought Friday to defuse a crisis over a power struggle in Sharjah where the new ruler claims he is in control backed by the ruling Al Qassimi family.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Mohammad Al Qassimi also warned in newspaper interviews that his troops will shoot anyone who tries to disrupt the situation in the emirate on the southern fringes of the Gulf.

"Troops have orders to open fire on any one who tries to undermine the emirate's security," Sheikh Abdul Aziz said in interviews published in Kuwait's Al Qabas, A Seyassah and Al Watan dailies.

They were his first public statements since deposing his younger brother, Sheikh Sultan, Wednesday while Sheikh Sultan was on holidaying in England.

But Sheikh Abdul Aziz, 50, stressed "we have no intention to use violence unless we are obliged to."

Sheikh Abdul Aziz told Al Seyassah: "I am the legal ruler of Sharjah. I will not step down except by a decision of the ruling family."

Sheikh Abdul Aziz said he had family backing to replace Sheikh Sultan, whom he accused of piling up debts of some five billion dirhams (\$1.4 billion) through financial mismanagement and neglect.

But Sheikh Sultan, who is now in the neighbouring emirate of Dubai, was confident of being reinstated, his wife Sheikhha Jawaher told Reuters by telephone from London.

Dubai newspapers prominently displayed pictures of Sheikh Sultan, whom they referred to as "ruler of Sharjah," receiving close members of his family including another brother, Sheikh Saqr, who had been his official deputy.

Diplomats said this suggested that the ruling family might itself be divided over who should hold power.

Dubai, the second largest UAE

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Israel says Arab cell responsible for Masri killing and other attacks captured

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has arrested a Palestinian commando squad in the occupied West Bank allegedly responsible for the killings of the mayor of Nablus and five other killings or attempted killings in the last two years, the head of the Israeli army central command said Friday.

Speaking at a news conference, General Amram Mitznah said the cell belonged to the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which claimed responsibility for the assassination of Mayor Zafer Al Masri in March last year.

Gen. Mitznah described the cell as particularly well-organised and effective.

"At least one of those detained was trained in Syria and they received all their weapons and orders from outside Israel and the West Bank," he said.

"This group was brave and ideologically committed. Not once did they get orders to carry out an attack and for any reason fail to carry out their mission."

The late mayor's brother, Hikmat Al Masri, told Reuters the Israeli authorities had informed him they had captured the assassins. "We always knew it was the PFLP," he said.

In an apparently related development, Gen. Mitznah ordered the administrative detention without trial of three Palestinian activists from the West Bank, an Israeli spokesman said.

Two were described as PFLP activists from the Dheishe refugee camp and the third as a resident of the town of Ramallah, freed in 1985 in a prisoner exchange with another Syrian-based group, the PFLP-General Command of Ahmad Jibril.

tors were able to track the commando cell after an apparent attempt to kill the Arab mayor of Jenin last month.

Giacomelli berates Dheishe fence

A top United Nations official criticised Israel on Thursday for erecting a fence around the Dheishe refugee camp, and called the barrier an "ugly and very unpleasant contraption."

Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), spoke during a 30-minute tour of Dheishe.

The army built the four-to-six metre high wire fence two weeks ago outside Dheishe, where 12,000 refugees live, after a spate of stoning attacks on Israeli vehicles nearby.

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Iran reports large force ready to stage anti-U.S. suicide attacks

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Fifty battalions of Iranian zealots calling themselves "defenders" of the Gulf paraded through Tehran Friday vowing to carry out suicide attacks against U.S. ships in the Gulf, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio quoted Revolutionary Guards spokesman Ali Reza Afshar said his forces had turned Iranian islands in the Gulf into "huge battlefields that can easily hunt all of the enemy's ships and naval apparatus."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that the supreme defence council met in Tehran Thursday night to discuss "the defensive plan for naval forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps" in the Gulf following superpower intervention to protect Kuwaiti ships.

Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Afshar as saying in a prayer sermon at Tehran University that the 400-man battalions of "martyrdom-seekers" will be deployed

June 28 "to defend the Gulf and repulse the aggression of world arrogance," Iranian parlance for the United States.

U.S. defence officials are concerned at Iran's deployment of Chinese-made Silkorm anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, a potential threat to shipping and freedom of navigation in the waterway.

Gulf shipping officials also have reported that Revolutionary Guards naval units have been mining the approaches to Kuwait's Al Ahmadi oil terminal.

Mr. Afshar's warning was the latest in a daily broadside of threats made by Iranian leaders following U.S. and Soviet moves to help Kuwait, which Tehran charges aids Iraq, protect its shipping from Iranian attacks.

On the warfront meanwhile, Iraq said Thursday its forces repulsed a fresh Iranian offensive on the Gulf war's southern flanks, causing heavy Iranian casualties.

A high command communique said the three-pronged offensive, aimed at an area east of the Misas sector, was crushed.

It said thousands of Iranian troops were killed or wounded in the attack, which started at 2:30 a.m. (2230 GMT Wednesday) and ended at 1:35 p.m. (0935 GMT).

Iraq launched a major cross-border offensive against the southern Iraqi city of Basra in January.

Iraq denied a Tehran claim that Iranian forces, backed by anti-Baghdad Kurds, captured strategic heights in northern Iraq during an operation launched overnight.

The head of the Iraqi Defence Ministry's political department, Abdul Jabbar Mohtasen, told reporters there had been no fighting in the region since Wednesday afternoon.

He said Iraqi troops repelled

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Anti-government violence spreads in S. Korea; premier issues warning

SEOUL (Agencies) — The government warned on Friday that the anti-government violence that has raged for 10 straight days cannot be allowed to continue.

"Should it become impossible to restore law and order ... it would be inevitable for the government to make an extraordinary decision," Prime Minister Lee Han-Key said in a nationwide television address.

As he spoke, students hurled rocks and firebombs against riot police, who counterattacked with armoured cars and barrages of tear-gas.

A South Korean policeman died when demonstrators commandeered a bus in Taejeon, south of Seoul, and ploughed into ranks of riot policemen, Seoul Radio said.

The bus mowed down four police officers during a street battle and one later died, the radio said.

demanding the resignation of President Chun Doo Hwan.

In his television address Mr. Lee did not say exactly what the government might do. But Korean newspapers have been filled with reports the government is considering a number of strong measures, including ruling by emergency decree or martial law.

In the first major government statement on the unrest, Mr. Lee urged Koreans to return to their homes, jobs and schools and end the disturbances.

"I hope the public clearly realises that if we should fail to overcome the present difficulty in a peaceful manner, the nation would plunge into a major crisis," Mr. Lee said.

Mr. Lee reports to President Chun. The opposition is seeking the downfall of Mr. Chun's military-backed government and immediate democratic elections.

Fierce clashes erupted Friday in the streets around several universities in the capital as students set up barricades and pelted riot

police with firebombs and rocks. Police armoured cars used multiple tear-gas launchers to fire thousands of gas bombs.

"Down with the military dictatorship," the students chanted. Two of the biggest outbreaks were at Yonsei and Korea universities in Seoul. The demonstrations at Korea University brought a violent confrontation with police, who fired tear-gas barrages in attempts to quell the students who hurled rocks and firebombs.

At Seoul National University on the edge of the capital city, about 8,000 students were reported to have held a rally with about 3,500 of them later taking over the school library for an overnight sit-in.

In the southern port city of Pusan, several thousand protesters were reported to have defied a driving rain to gather at a city centre, the same site tens of thousands had taken over Thursday in demonstrations that went on far into the night.

Kidnappers of American newsmen contact Syrians

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Kidnappers of U.S. newsmen Charles Glass and the son of Lebanon's defence minister are trying to strike a deal for their release with Syrian forces in Lebanon, a source close to the Syrians said Friday.

Defence Minister Adel Ossairan told reporters he had been advised his son Ali and Glass were held by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God). "I insist that they all be released," he said.

A Hizbollah source told Reuters: "Hizbollah categorically denies reports that it kidnapped Ossairan and the American."

The group has always denied any link with the 29 foreigners missing, believed kidnapped in Lebanon. Most are believed to be held by pro-Iranian Shiite radicals.

Gunmen seized Glass, Ossairan and a policeman escorting them on Wednesday as they drove through Ouzai south of Beirut.

"The kidnappers are known. Their people came to us to sound out the situation. The kidnappers are trying to save themselves in return for releasing their captives," the source close to the Syrians said.

"It is not a trivial matter. We are considering all practical options," the source said.

A Lebanese political source said the Syrians were determined that Glass and Ossairan should be released, noting: "It is a big challenge to their power here."

The abduction of Glass, 36, was the first reported kidnap of a foreigner since more than 7,000

Syrian troops deployed in west Beirut four months ago to restore order.

The kidnap took place about 900 metres from a Syrian checkpoint.

"I saw three cars loaded with gunmen intercept another one with three people. They stepped down and surrounded it," said a witness, adding: "I ran away thinking there might be shots."

Syria's head of military intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, has called on foreigners to return to west Beirut, saying he personally guaranteed their safety.

Many of the hostages are believed to be held in the crowded southern suburbs of Beirut, which are virtually surrounded by Syrian soldiers.

Militia sources told Reuters the kidnappers of Glass and Ossairan were from the same clan groups that already hold some of the 10 missing Americans.

They and other radical groups have made demands including the release of Shiite prisoners in Kuwait, freedom for 400 Arabs held by Israel, the release of a suspected hijacker in West Germany and an end to support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

No group has made a public claim to hold Glass and a U.S. embassy spokesman said she had no information.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday that it was concerned for Glass but assumed that the seizure was an attempt to manipulate the United States, which would not yield to "terrorist blackmail."

Glass, from Los Angeles, California, is married with five children. He came to Lebanon earlier this month to do freelance work for ABC Television News and to research a book he was writing on Lebanese political families.

The British wife of Glass said Thursday that he had good friends in the Middle East who were doing everything they could to help.

"At the moment we just have to hope that he's safe," said Fiona Glass at the London home where the couple live with their five children.

"He has been staying with the family of the Lebanese defence minister and tried to be as careful as possible," Mrs. Glass told reporters.

"I just have to hope everything will be all right. He loves the place, he loves the Lebanese people. He's very concerned about the country," she said.

"He was always cautious as he knew what the risks were. Obviously we had discussed the possibility of him being kidnapped but he had to go to Lebanon to research his book," Mrs. Glass said.

She said Glass had been in the region for about three weeks and was due to leave soon to go to Jordan.



The four Israeli legislators who met with Palestine Liberation Organisation officials in Romania pose outside the Ramle court, where their trial opened Thursday. (From left to right) they are Kheizer Feller, Yael Lotan, Latif Dori and Reuven Kammer.

Trial of four Israeli legislators suspended

RAMLE (AP) — The trial of four Israelis charged with occupying Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members was suspended after the defence attorneys charged the judge with being unfair.

Meanwhile, an Israeli legislator met with a senior PLO official to demand a probe into the killing of a Jewish boy, Israel radio said.

Ran Cohen of the leftist opposition Citizens' Rights Movement met in Washington with a leading figure close to (the PLO leader) Yasser Arafat, the radio's Washington correspondent reported.

The report said Cohen presented the PLO official with a demand that the PLO investigate the slaying of an eight-year-old Jewish boy, Rami Chaba. The boy was found dead last month in

a cave in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

A spokeswoman for Cohen's movement, which holds four seats in the 120-member parliament, was not available at her home or office to comment on the report.

The trial of four Israelis who met with the PLO members last year was suspended when defence attorneys asked the judge to disqualify himself, charging he was unfair.

Defence Attorney Avigdor Feldman accused Judge Avraham Baisar of putting the defence in an "unbearable situation" by constantly cutting off his line of questioning.

The proceedings were postponed when Feldman said he would ask the supreme court to disqualify the judge.

Dany Chamoun seeks U.S. pressure for Syrian pullout

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Lebanese presidential candidate Dany Chamoun said Thursday he wants the United States and its allies to exert diplomatic pressure on Syria to force it to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Chamoun, a Maronite Catholic and the son of former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun, is the National Liberal Party candidate to succeed President Amin Gemayel in September 1988. Under an unwritten political agreement, Lebanese Falangists hold the presidency and the Sunnis the premiership.

He told a news conference at the United Nations that he will meet in Washington next week with White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and other U.S. officials to seek a definition of the U.S. policy toward Syria.

Syria, which Mr. Chamoun said had 30,000 to 40,000 troops in Lebanon, is the chief power broker in the country that has suffered 12 years of civil war.

Mr. Chamoun, 52, said he wants to find out what the United States intends to do "to free Lebanon from this yoke of

occupation by the Syrian forces and ... give it a chance to be an independent country and be able to continue a democratic process."

Mr. Chamoun stressed he was talking about diplomatic pressure and not military action. He said international diplomatic action should be directed against Syria and suggested a U.N.-sponsored international conference on Lebanon.

"Syria claims it has intervened in Lebanon to enforce peace between warring militias."

Mr. Chamoun also said he understands Israel's need to keep its self-proclaimed security zone in South Lebanon until a strengthened Lebanese central government can take control of the area.

But he said most of the rest of the country "is managed and ruled by an occupation army backed by political intention ... to implement final hegemony on Lebanon and absorb Lebanon and create out of it a political satellite totally under the management of Syria."

Mr. Chamoun said Thursday that he had warned kidnapped American journalist Charles Glass to stay out of west Beirut.

'Pentagon to review its forecast of risks to U.S. servicemen in Gulf'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defence Department will review its long-range forecast about the threats to U.S. servicemen in the Gulf in the face of a CIA judgment which forecasts higher risks, congressional sources say.

The reassessment was offered during a meeting on Thursday between legislators and top national security officials of the administration of President Ronald Reagan, the sources said.

At the same time, the White House said it regards as "low to moderate" the risks for U.S. personnel and ships in the Gulf.

As William Webster, the new CIA director, briefed senators about the potential dangers in the administration's plan to place Kuwaiti tankers under U.S. protection, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the CIA assessment "relates to the possibility of terrorism against Kuwait, which is something different than the risk to our military fleet."

As for the risk against U.S. military personnel, Mr. Fitzwater said the White House shares the Pentagon's view that it is "low to moderate."

Asked if the Reagan administration regarded a "low to moderate" risk as acceptable, Mr. Fitzwater said, "Yes. That's assumed in the decision."

During the two-hour meeting, officials said the Pentagon was in the process of reviewing its assessment of the threat, according to sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

The risk arises from the administration's decision to put 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers under U.S. flags and captains and offer them the protection of the U.S. navy as

they pass through the Gulf. The refueling is scheduled to start in July.

Kuwait is an ally of Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war, and the apparently accidental May 17 missile attack by an Iraqi warplane on the navy frigate Stark has heightened congressional concerns about the risks.

U.S. officials said the Pentagon has dispatched navy experts to the Gulf to assess the danger posed to shipping by mines said to have been placed near the coast of Kuwait by Iran.

While the evaluation has yet to be completed, navy and Pentagon officials are convinced at this point that Iran's use of mines would pose "a manageable threat," the sources said. "We aren't overly concerned," said one Pentagon official.

The differences between the CIA and the Pentagon were among the topics Thursday at a closed-door, informal meeting of senators and top administration national security officials.

Along with Mr. Webster, the meeting was attended by Frank Carlucci, President Reagan's national security adviser, and Adm. William Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Among the participating lawmakers were Senators John Warner, ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, and James Sasser, a Democrat, who returned from a Gulf visit three weeks ago.

Although Sen. Warner and Sen. Sasser refused to spell out the differing assessments, congressional sources who declined to be identified said the CIA told Congress that there is a high

probability that Iran may sponsor some type of attack on U.S. navy ships or against shipping that won't be protected by the navy.

The intelligence agency reportedly warned that terrorist attacks difficult to trace back to Iran could be undertaken, leaving the United States unable to respond.

The CIA's assessments were delivered earlier this week to closed meetings of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The Pentagon report assessed only the direct Iranian military threat against U.S. interests, and did not address the larger question of a terrorist-type attack.

Meanwhile, a former top U.S. officer said Thursday, the United States should lay mines around Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal if Iran attacks Kuwaiti vessels operating under U.S. protection.

Admiral Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 to 1974, said the mines would cut Iran's oil exports, limit casualties and demonstrate U.S. resolve.

"Otherwise you'd be the victim of the bully on the block," Adm. Moorer told a forum sponsored by Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Adm. Moorer, an ex-chief of naval operations, said he was a longstanding advocate of mine use, notably based on his experience in mining Haiphong Harbour during the Vietnam War.

No ships entered the harbor for two years after the decision to lay mines was made on May 8, 1972, and no one was hurt or killed, Adm. Moorer said.

Vorontsov: Iranian people want peace

BAGHDAD (R) — A Soviet leader was quoted Friday as saying the Iranian people wanted peace but their leaders were intent on pursuing the war with Iraq.

"The Iranian people are very interested in peace and stability in the region but the officials hold a different view," Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov told the Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya.

Mr. Vorontsov left Baghdad Thursday after visiting both Iran and Iraq. A Kuwait press report that he was promoting a Soviet plan aimed at halting attacks on Gulf shipping as a first step towards ending the war has not been officially confirmed.

"The Iranian leaders are still officially advocating their same old slogans towards the war," Al Jumhuriya quoted him as saying. He did not elaborate.

Tehran has dismissed all regional and international efforts to stop the war, which has lasted nearly seven years.

Iranian-British relations reduced to caretaker status

LONDON (AP) — Diplomatic links between Britain and Iran have been reduced to caretaker status in a dispute over the arrest of an Iranian official in Britain for alleged shoplifting and the subsequent beating-up of a British official in Tehran.

But Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said Thursday night that Britain is ready to get

back to resuming full diplomatic relations if there are prospects of a "sensible" Iranian reaction.

Howe told reporters that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government had stopped short of a formal diplomatic break because it wants to "leave the door ajar" for a return to "sensible realistic relations" with Iran.

Algeria, Libya announce plan for political unity

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria and Libya are considering a union between their countries, a joint statement has said.

The proposed union is Libya's third attempt to unite with its North African neighbours after abortive attempts to achieve this with Tunisia and Morocco.

A statement after three days of talks between senior officials of the two governments, said they had "studied a political document concerning a union between Libya and Algeria, which will be submitted to the leaderships of the two countries."

Libya's number two leader, Abdessalam Jalloud, ended a

three-day official visit to Algeria Thursday with a call for a full political merger of the two Arab neighbours.

Algerian officials and commentators responded without enthusiasm to the proposal, but acknowledged that the two sides discussed substantial improvements in cultural, economic and technical cooperation.

Mr. Jalloud came with a large delegation which conferred with an Algerian delegation headed by Mohammed Cherif Messadia, secretary general of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front, and also was received by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:55 Programme Review
15:55 Tom and Jerry
16:20 Children programme
16:40 Arabic series
17:10 Chusky
17:40 Programme on Nutrition
19:00 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Documentary on Jerusalem
21:10 Arabic series
22:00 Programme review
22:05 Arabic play
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Play contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les nouveaux mondes (feature film)
19:15 M. Benjamin (new series)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Music Box
21:10 Dad's Army
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film:

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 950 KHz. SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:30 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 25 Years of Rock
12:00 News Summary
12:05 The deceiver
12:30 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Jordan Weekly
14:15 Concert Home
16:00 News Summary
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:30 Rock Profile
20:30 Men from the Ministry
21:00 30-minute Theatre

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 730, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Here's Humph

07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:30 Society Today
08:45 News Summary 09:00 Newsweek
09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News
10:30 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30
From the Weeklies 10:45 Network UK
11:00 World News 11:00 Rediffusion
11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World
News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15
The World Today 12:30 Financial
News 12:45 Society Today 12:50 News
Summary: Here's Humph 13:15 Letter
from America 13:30 People and Politics
14:00 About Britain 14:15 Sports
world 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio
Newsweek 15:15 Music for the Sun King
15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World
News 16:00 24 Hours: News Summary
16:30 Network UK 16:45 Saturday
Special 17:00 News Summary: Saturday
Special 17:30 Saturday Special 18:00
Radio Newsweek 18:15 Saturday Special
19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary
19:15 Saturday Special 20:00 News
Summary: Saturday Special 20:45
Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek
21:30 Trooping the Colour 22:00 News
Summary: Dec 20:00 23:00 World
News 23:00 24 Hours: News Summary
23:30 Jazz for the Aching 24:00 News
Summary: Sportsweek 00:15 People
and Politics 01:00 World News 02:30
Anything Goes

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1200 & SW 7200, 8565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00
News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News
08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10
VOA Morning 10:30 News Summary
11:00 News 11:10 American Viewpoints
11:30 Special English News & Features
12:00 News 12:10 Weekend
12:40 News 21:10 Closing 21:30 Special
Newsweek 21:45 News Summary
22:30 22:10 American Viewpoints
22:30 Press Conference, USA 23:30
News 23:10 Music USA Jazz 23:55
Editorial 24:00 News 00:10 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of Arab calligraphy by Nidal Tabbal at the Jordanian plastic artists association (until Jun. 20).

* An exhibition of paintings by Jany Bourdais at the Architectural Gallery, Riyadh Centre, Jabel Amman (until June 26).

* An art exhibition by Omar Basoul at the Housing Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18).

* An exhibition of plastic art by Hiyam Abaza and Huda Osman at the Royal Cultural Centre (until June 25).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637020
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644023
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Husseini Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 640251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a

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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:10 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15 Agaña (RJ)
10:15 Cairo (RJ)
10:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:35 Damascus (RJ)
10:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
10:50 Dhahran (RJ)
10:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain (RJ)
17:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:40 Athens (RJ)
19:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:15 Istanbul (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
00:55 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

01:40 Muscat (add.) (GF)
02:20 Beirut, Istanbul (KU)
12:10 Kuwait (add.) (KU)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
13:20 Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
16:10 Riyadh (SV)
17:30 Athens (RJ)
18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:25 Beirut (RJ)
20:10 Rome (AZ)
00:25 Frankfurt (LH)

DEPARTURES JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

05:00 Kuwait (add.) (RJ)
06:00 Agaña (RJ)
11:45

Crown Prince, Princess begin visit of U.K.

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath began a private visit to the United Kingdom on Friday.

Upon their departure from Amman on Thursday, they were seen off by Prince Ghazi, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the

Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Higher Education Nasserredine Al Assad and Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan along with the British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles and Jordanian government officials.

Al al Bait Foundation concludes 6th meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The 6th annual meeting of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation) concluded here on Friday and recommended that His Majesty King Hussein's address to the opening session be one of the basic documents of the conference and a guideline for the conference's work.

They also recommended that all the ideas contained in His Majesty's speech to the conference be the starting point for discussions and follow up works, particularly those related to coordination among Islamic institutions and to the need for a humanistic perspective on scientific and economic studies.

Crown Prince's speech

In his speech to the conference, the Crown Prince called for coordination among academies in the Islamic World.

Prince Hassan said such cooperation ought to focus mainly on the humanities, and natural sciences which he said are closely connected with the Islamic faith and the development of mankind.

Referring to the current meeting of the foundation, Prince Hassan said that it is working to promote Islamic education, and to prepare encyclopaedia on Islamic civilisation.

At the close of the meeting on Friday, conferences called on the academy to form working teams and specialised committees which will be entrusted with assessing and evaluating the academy's achievements. They also endorsed the basic steps for finalising a comprehensive encyclopaedia on Islamic civilisation and thanked the academy for its efforts to give life to this project.

They also thanked the academy for issuing analytical indexes of Islamic education and economy and called on the society to pursue its efforts in these fields.

The conference further asked

the academy to compile all research already undertaken about education in the Islamic World into one volume, and to endorse an introduction explaining the objectives of this project.

The conference also decided to set up a joint committee grouping representatives from the Al al Bait Foundation, the Islamic Academy for Science and Technology, the Islamic Fiqh Academy, and other Islamic institutions to organise joint meetings and dialogue designed to clarify their goals and objectives.

On the occasion of the conclusion of the Al al Bait Foundation 6th annual conference, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the conference chairman, sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein in which he said that Muslim scholars who took part in the conference express their deep appreciation and thanks to the King for his royal patronage and for the royal speech which His Majesty delivered at the conference's opening session.

"Your Majesty's speech contained a clear-cut insight for the direction of Islamic work throughout Islamic World and serves as a guideline for Islamic thought in its future aspirations," the cable said.

Prince Hassan added that the Muslim scholars wished the King continuing good health and success in his efforts and endeavours to serve the Muslim nation.

President of Al al Bait Foundation, Dr. Nasserredine Al Assad, sent a cable to Prince Hassan in which he expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to the Crown Prince for his chairmanship of the conference and for the care and interest he accorded to the conference.

In his cable, Dr. Assad said that Prince Hassan's participation in the conference enriched the conference's discussions with genuine thought and right directives.



His Majesty King Hussein attends graduation of the eighth batch of Yarmouk University on Thursday at the Municipality Stadium in Irbid. Also attending were Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai (to the King's right), Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan (to the King's left), Chief of Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, and other officials (Petra photo).

King graduates Yarmouk students

IRBID (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein attended a ceremony for the graduation of 2,537 students from Yarmouk University and distributed degrees to the male and female students in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor, university staff, and thousands of relatives of the graduates.

The graduation of the eighth batch of students took place at the Municipality Stadium in Irbid where speeches were made before the King distributed the de-

grees.

Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, Yarmouk University president, made a speech on the occasion voicing the university's pride in having the King attend this occasion. He said that the King had been keen on providing education for Jordanian people and has come to share with his citizens their joy and their happiness.

The university, which started off 11 years ago with 600 students and 50 teachers, now boasts 12,000 students and 500 teachers.

Dr. Hamdan said.

One of the female students delivered an address on behalf of the graduates paying tribute to the King for his care for education and the university for pursuing efforts in providing knowledge to its students.

Among those attending the ceremony with the King were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Cabinet members and officials together with the relatives of the graduates.

Queen Mother opens charity flower show

AMMAN (Petra) — The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) opened its 14th flower exhibition at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman on Thursday, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother.

The two-day exhibition has been organised in cooperation with local institutions and Arab and foreign embassies in Amman. The proceeds of the show will benefit the YWCA's branches in Amman, Jerusalem, Madaba, Husan and Jericho and also the association's projects being carried out in Palestinian refugee camps.

The Queen Mother inspected various flower arrangements on display and heard a speech from Mrs. Suhaila Maqad, director of the YWCA's Amman branch, who paid tribute to the Queen Mother for her keenness on promoting charity work in the Kingdom and her continued support of women's activities in the country.



Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, tours the flower show sponsored by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) at the Intercontinental Hotel on Thursday. The proceeds of the show will go to benefit the YWCA's various projects (Photo Hagop Toranian).

The opening ceremony was attended by wives of heads of

Dajani voices support for int'l efforts against drug abuse, trafficking

VIENNA (Petra) — Interior Minister Rajai Dajani has stressed Jordan's keen interest in combating narcotic trafficking and expressed Jordan's readiness to cooperate with the international efforts designed to combat narcotic trafficking, circulation and promotion.

Jordan is ready to take part in any international efforts aimed at combating narcotics trafficking and drug addiction, according to the conference's theme: Yes to life, no to narcotics, Mr. Dajani said.

Addressing participants in an international conference on drugs abuse and illegal trafficking of narcotics, currently held in Vienna, Mr. Dajani said that narcotics trafficking in Jordan is not a major problem. But, he said, out of an awareness of the gravity of the narcotic trafficking problem, Jordan has made every possible effort to combat this phenomenon and to defeat its consequences.

According to statistics and information available in Jordan, no more than 13 out of every 10,000

of Jordan's population deals in narcotics and the majority of them have come from abroad, Mr. Dajani noted.

Percentage of the Jordanians involved in narcotics trafficking was no more than 50 per cent of those who were arrested in Jordan on narcotics trafficking charges, Mr. Dajani said.

Jordan is transit country

He noted that the real problem behind narcotics trafficking lies in Jordan's central location between the producing and consuming countries. Given this fact, Jordan was used by traffickers as a transit country for the narcotic trade.

Speaking about Jordan's efforts to combat narcotic trafficking locally and internationally, Mr. Dajani said Jordan set up a special department for combating narcotics in 1973 and has used heavy sanctions against traffickers to deter others.

The Ministry of Health has also played an important role in controlling the misuse of drugs and narcotics and is supervising all activities relating to prevention, remedy and follow up, in addition to supervising an education campaign to make people aware of the dangers of narcotics.

It is also supervising a centre especially set up to treat narcotic addicts who have been arrested.

Mr. Dajani added that a national committee, grouping representatives from all parties concerned, has been formed to undertake studies and research and to propose solutions to the narcotic problem.

There are also voluntary committees supporting the activities of the official committees in the fields of raising public awareness on the dangers of narcotics.

Pan-Arab action

At the pan-Arab level, Mr. Dajani said, Jordan has contributed towards drawing up an Arab strategy to combat the illegal use of narcotics, which was approved in 1986. It also contributed to the United Arab Law on narcotics which was endorsed by the Arab group in 1986. Jordan has also amended the narcotics law to cope with the pan-Arab trend.

Writers group plans legal action after closing of offices

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) has decided to seek legal recourse against the government decision to dissolve the association, said a member of the JWA administrative board.

The member, who requested anonymity, said that all members of the board, except for one who is outside the country, have signed the request to seek legal recourse. This was in response to the decision taken on Wednesday by the military governor general (the prime minister), issuing a defence order to close the writers association offices.

According to agencies' reports, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, acting according to his powers under martial law, disbanded the JWA because of political activities by its members.

The Associated Press quoted Haider Mahmoud, director of culture and arts, as saying the prime minister closed the association because most of its 300 members were not writers and some were using the JWA as a cover for partisan political activities, which are banned.

In announcing the order for closure, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities said that

while the purpose behind establishing the association was to give momentum to the literary and cultural movement in Jordan, the association gradually started accepting members who were not linked with literary or cultural work of any sort.

The ministry said that the members had gone beyond the association's aims by using the JWA as a meeting place to serve their own selfish interests.

Reuters quoted the association president, Khalid Karaki, as confirming on Thursday that the government had closed the offices, but that he had not been officially informed of the action. "I did not receive any reasons," he was quoted as saying.

JWA members have, however, speculated that the closure is linked to the annual elections for a new JWA committee that had been scheduled to take place on Thursday and Friday.

A member of the JWA board interviewed by the Jordan Times

said that he believed the decision has to do with a planned conference of Arab writers which would be hosted by the JWA in March 1988. The government did not want the JWA in its current structure to host the conference, the member claimed.

Another member of the JWA board noted that the government was willing to pick up the \$150,000 tab of the conference, but then conflict arose as to who would run the conference: the JWA or the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities.

"Legally, the JWA is responsible, but we decided to form a committee consisting of both JWA and government officials. However, when the government asked for the JWA to change to a federation under government rule, we disagreed," he said, adding the JWA was willing to become a federation without government "interference."

A ministry spokesman was quoted as saying that a specialised committee grouping senior writers, intellectuals and university professors would be set up to work in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Antiquities for laying down new foundations for the movement.

World Bank to loan \$96.4m for electrification, low income housing

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Jordan will receive two loans totalling \$96.4 million to support projects aimed at increasing electrical production and improving housing in slum and squatter areas, the World Bank said.

The bank said it is making a \$70-million loan to help fund a \$257.8-million project designed to meet its future power needs, primarily by expanding a steam power plant at Aqaba by adding two 130-megawatt units.

It said the other loan is \$26.4 million to support a project to provide affordable housing, urban infrastructure and social services to low-income families in slum and squatter areas.

The power project, which will upgrade substations at Aqaba and Amman-South, is expected to improve the quality of power supply services and continue institution-building efforts of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), the bank said.

In addition to the bank loan, the project is being financed by \$24 million from both the Arab Fund and the Kuwait Fund, \$14 million from both the Islamic Development Bank and \$5 million from the OPEC fund.

JEA will provide \$72.3 million and \$48.5 million is expected to come from export and suppliers' credit, the bank said.

The bank said the \$93.3 million housing project is expected to improve the quality of life for about 8,000 low-income families in poorly serviced areas.

Both loans are for 17 years, including four years of grace, and carry a variable interest rate, currently 7.92 per cent, which is linked to the bank's cost of borrowing.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide up to \$25 million in loan guarantees to the Housing Bank through the Ministry of Finance to encourage the provision of more low income housing in the Kingdom, according to a USIS press release.

Through loans by U.S. banks guaranteed by USAID, the dual focus Housing Guarantee Programme hopes to encourage private developers to participate in low-income housing construction projects, and to increase the availability of long-term mortgages for low-income families.

Loans to eligible beneficiaries can be utilised for the purchase of

new homes, for new construction, or for rehabilitation of existing units.

The Housing Guarantee Programme is being administered by the Housing Bank. The bank expects to provide financing for a minimum of 1,500 units, half constructed by private developers and the other half reserved for individual mortgage loans.

The first call for funds from U.S. investors for \$15 million resulted in an agreement between Jordan and Citibank of New York as the successful bidder for

the first tranche.

A second call for funds for the remaining \$10 million under the current programme is expected to be issued later this year by the Ministry of Finance.

According to USAID officials in Amman, it is hoped that the current Housing Guarantee Programme will demonstrate the feasibility of providing low income housing in Jordan and that the programme will be a catalyst for similar ones on the part of Jordanian financial institutions and developers in the Kingdom.

Hamdan returns from UNEP panel

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan has returned to Amman after heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the 14th conference of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) held in Nairobi, Kenya on June 8.

Mr. Hamdan said that the conference discussed several topics related to environmental protection and nature conservation in the world.

The minister added that he delivered Jordan's address to the conference in which he outlined Jordan's activities and efforts to protect the environment and water resources in the Kingdom.

In his address, Mr. Hamdan called for intensifying international efforts and taking practical measures to halt desertification, combat drought, protect environment and territorial water throughout the world. He also spoke about Israeli inhuman practices against Arab population in the occupied West Bank and its confiscation of nearly 50 per cent

of the total area under its occupation in the West Bank.

The Jordanian delegation, Mr. Hamdan pointed out, submitted a report to the conference on Israeli arbitrary measures and their negative effect on environment in the occupied Arab territories. He also added that Jordan along with Arab group countries to the conference requested the UNEP to study and investigate the damages caused to environment in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israeli occupation.

During the conference, Mr. Hamdan also met with a number of Arab and foreign delegates to the conference with whom he discussed cooperation and the exchange of experiences between Jordan and their countries.

The minister also pointed out that he discussed with the UNEP executive director, Dr. Mustafa Tubba possibility of UNEP assistance in setting up a national centre for environment information in Jordan to provide information for Jordan and the region's countries.

1,275 expatriates return in last half of 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development estimates the number of Jordanian expatriate workers who have returned to settle in Jordan, between July last year and the end of 1986, at 1,275 persons.

A ministry spokesman said that 97 per cent of the returning expatriates came from Arab countries, mostly from Saudi Arabia,

Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Nearly 34.5 per cent of these returnees are skilled workers and 11.3 per cent have been employed in offices. More than half of the returning expatriates are aged between 25 and 40, the spokesman said.

He said that those of young age and with skills can be absorbed in the local market.

Firing of bank employees prompts CBJ meeting

By Samir Al Hiarri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The summary dismissal of bank employees in Jordan over the past weeks and the controversy surrounding this action by at least two foreign owned banks were at the centre of a meeting of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on Thursday, and the president of the General Union of Bank Employees (GUBE) in Jordan was quoted as saying that the CBJ governor does not approve of the dismissal measures.

Two of the foreign banks operating in Jordan, the British Bank of the Middle East and the Grindlays Bank Ltd, were earlier reported to have laid off at least 32 of their employees, a move that was deplored by the union.

The meeting on Thursday was attended by CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qasem, his deputy Dr. Maher Shukri and board members of the GUBE. The subject of dismissals was examined in detail with both Mr. Qasem and Dr. Shukri expressing their regret for dismissals which they said would adversely affect the banking business in Jordan.

GUBE President Haidar Rashid, who attended the meeting, said that his union had been informed by the CBJ that it does not approve of laying off bank employees, but rather it advises all banks to expand and to open new branches in the Kingdom. The CBJ, Mr. Rashid said, has received assurances from different banks that no more lay-offs would be made.

Mr. Rashid said that the union

will hold an extraordinary meeting to deal with the problem and to look into means of stopping this "arbitrary action" which, he said, tend to negatively affect the status and threaten the future of all bank employees in the country.

According to Mr. Rashid, the GUBE in Jordan had sent a memorandum to the CBJ governor urging him to interfere and put an end to such measures by bank managements. The memorandum said that a number of banks have forced some of their employees to resign threatening to fire them if they did not comply.

These measures resulted in the creation of confusion within the financial and banking sector in Jordan, and led to fears that similar dismissal measures would be copied by others banks, Mr. Rashid noted.

He said that these measures were taken at a time when most banks in Jordan have been making profits and no decrease in their operations had been detected.

The GUBE sent copies of the memorandum to Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and the president of the Association of Jordanian Banks (AJB).

In an earlier interview with Jordan Times, Mr. Rashid said that the Cairo Amman Bank was contemplating similar dismissal and contacts between the GUBE and the bank management was going on. Mr. Rashid said that the GUBE was also seeking help from the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions to find a solution to the problem.

Wildlife reserve to expand

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSN) has extended the boundaries of the Shomari Wildlife Reserve near Azraq to increase the area to 320 square kilometres. It has decided to change its name to Al Azraq Desert Wildlife Reserve.

A society spokesman said that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has promised to contribute to the expansion project at the wildlife reserve which former-

ly had an area of 22 square kilometres.

He said that the society had earlier drawn up an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture under which the society will pursue the expansion project.

In another development, a society spokesman said that hunting of animals and birds in territory lying east of the Hijaz Railway in the Jordanian desert has been banned. He said that violators of the new ban will be prosecuted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zaid opens telephone exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, on Thursday opened the army headquarters new electronic telephone exchange system. The new exchange was described as one of the world's modern exchanges and is designed to promote communications within the armed services. Field Marshal Sharif Zaid toured the different sections of the exchange unit and was briefed on its operations. Attending the opening ceremony was a group of senior army officers including Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb.

7 people killed in week's accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of seven people were killed and 203 others injured in 314 road accidents that occurred in the Kingdom in the past week, according to a bulletin released by the Public Security Department (PSD). It said that 173 accidents occurred in the Amman Governorate.

Canal to be named after King Abdullah

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued naming the East Ghor Canal in the Jordan Valley after the late King Abdullah Ibn Hussein, the grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein.

Phosphate, potash exports up


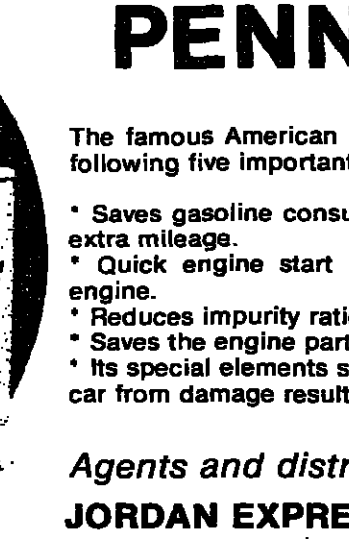
AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports of phosphate reached 528,300 tonnes during the first three months of this year, against 519,200 tonnes exported during the same period in 1986, which means an increase of 8,100 tonnes. Exports for potash during the first three months of this year also reached 89,500 tonnes up from 74,700 tonnes during the same period of 1986 which means an increase of 4,800 tonnes.

Man sentenced for hashish dealing

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Jamaliddin Mohammad Naser Qasem, a fugitive from law, to life imprisonment with hard labour for dealing in hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

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Gandhi party routed in Haryana

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi faced a question mark over his political future as the full extent of his Congress (I) Party's election disaster in the northern state of Haryana emerged Friday.

It was one of the most sweeping defeats Congress has suffered in a state election in its 101-year history, and the extent of the carnage caught observers by surprise.

"Party leaders were greatly shocked... they had not expected the party to fare so badly," declared the New Delhi daily Hindustan Times.

With 84 results declared Mr. Gandhi's party had won only four of the 90 seats in the Haryana assembly — plunging from a commanding 61 seats in the previous house.

The victorious alliance of the rural Lok Dal (People's Party) and the Hindu-Revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP — Indian People's Party) swept all before it.

The alliance, which held 23 seats in the previous house, had won 72. Congress and independent candidates held the remaining eight seats.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) called the result a slaughter. "The Congress defeat was expected but its debacle and utter rout was unexpected," it said.

To add to Congress's humiliation, Haryana Chief Minister Bansi Lal and 15 of his 16 ministers lost their seats.

Lal had been drafted to the post by Mr. Gandhi last year and entered the assembly with a by-election majority of 80,000 votes. This time he lost by more than 2,000 as the anti-Congress wave swept the state.

The verdict of Haryana's 8.7

million voters was as much a triumph for Devi Lal, a dour, 73-year-old former chief minister and leader of the Lok Dal as it was a disaster for Mr. Gandhi.

Lal campaigned hard against Congress for more than two years, barnstorming round the farming state and hitting hard at Mr. Gandhi on local and national issues.

On Thursday night, as victory emerged and he won his own seat by 26,000 votes, Lal collapsed exhausted and was taken to hospital declaring the win historic and of far-reaching importance for India.

Mr. Gandhi, his performance under close scrutiny because of his increasingly lacklustre performance as prime minister and Congress leader, made no immediate comment on the result.

His image as the "Mr. Clean" of Indian politics already tarnished by scandals and pay-off allegations in Delhi, the 42-year-old prime minister also appears now to have damaged his image

as a vote-winner.

He ran an uninspired campaign in Haryana despite the importance of the poll as his first popularity test in the Hindi-speaking belt of north India considered the bastion of the Congress Party.

The result was Congress's sixth defeat in seven state elections under Mr. Gandhi in the past two years and raised new doubts about his ability to rally the party to victory in general elections due in 1989.

"It was shocking... we will now have to take stock of the party's future," said a Congress politician who asked not to be identified.

In March Congress lost Kerala state, its last foothold in south India and party leaders had been worried about the prospect of an erosion of support in the party's northern stronghold.

"The leadership should know that if the people of Haryana are disenchanted with the party, people in other states can also be," the Hindustan Times said.

ILO urges sanctions against South Africa

GENEVA (R) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO), overriding Western government reservations, voted Friday for mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa that would stop trade, loans, investment and dealings with Pretoria on the world gold market.

A report condemning South Africa's apartheid policies was adopted by 331 votes to eight with 26 abstentions at the ILO's annual conference.

It called on all governments to sever political, military, cultural, sporting and diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

The document urged trade unions around the world to organise consumer boycotts of South African goods, and to expel union members who emigrated to take jobs in that country.

It denounced Pretoria's recent extension of the state of emergency in the country for a further year, which it said violated civil and trade union rights.

The U.S. government delegation voted against the report, saying its recommendations would not advance prospects for a democratic multi-racial system in South Africa. Mandatory sanctions would not work, and would harm South African workers and the economies of neighbouring black African states, it said.

Britain also voted against, and Belgium, with some other European Community members, abstained, saying the call for mandatory sanctions exceeded the competence of the 150-member ILO, whose aims are to promote social justice and improve workers' conditions around the world.

Most worker delegations voted in favour, together with Third World and Soviet Bloc and other Communist states. Each country sends three separate delegations to the conference, composed of representatives of governments, employers' associations and trade unions, and these act and vote independently of each other.

18 killed in bus-train collision in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Eighteen people died and 85 were injured when a goods train and a bus packed with about 140 passengers collided at a rail crossing in early morning darkness Friday, a transport company spokesman said.

All the casualties were black passengers on the bus, which was hurled off the crossing by the force of the impact.

Twenty of the injured were seriously hurt in the accident, which occurred between Pretoria and Rustenburg, about 100 kilometres north of Johannesburg.

Many of the passengers were believed to be miners.

The driver of the bus is missing, hampering investigations into the disaster, which is the second major traffic accident in South Africa in recent weeks. Last month 14 black schoolchildren died when a bus plunged over a cliff.

A spokesman for the state-run South African Transport Services, which operates the train, said the accident occurred about 4.30 a.m. when the bus was driving across the rail crossing.

Aquino to appoint 25 extra congressmen

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino will appoint 25 members to the Philippine House of Representatives, according to an executive order published Friday.

The order, signed by Mrs. Aquino on Thursday, asks labour, peasant, women, youth, urban poor and other groups to submit their nominations by July 20, one week before the congress convenes.

The order specifies that the appointed legislators should come also from groups representing war veterans, the elderly and physically handicapped, and tribal communities.

It did not say when Mrs. Aquino, already assured of large majorities in the senate and the lower house, will announce the appointments.

The appointments will increase membership in the lower house to 225. A total of 200 representatives were elected by district in the May 11 elections. It will not affect the 24-member senate, whose members were elected nationwide.

The Commission of Elections continued tabulating ballots Friday in a slow vote count that has delayed the proclamation of the final three senate members. Commission officials said Thursday they expect to finish counting the remaining 400,000 votes, less than 4 per cent of the total, in a few days.

In a separate development a military spokesman said Friday,

Communist killers used children as shields to escape pursuing soldiers after shooting two people, among eight to die in a wave of violence.

He said two policemen, a civilian and five rebels were killed in four separate clashes throughout the country.

The two Communist gunmen shot dead a policeman and a government employee in a village near Pagadian City in the southern Philippines Thursday.

The state-owned Philippines News Agency (PNA), quoting a military spokesman, said the two men were taking shelter from heavy rain in a store when they were killed.

Patrolling soldiers chased the gunmen who grabbed two children and used them as shields in their escape. The children were released unharmed.

A policeman shot dead a suspected Communist "sparrow" hitman in central Manila early Friday. The policeman was walking to work when she realised she was being followed by three men.

She drew her gun and confronted the men who shot at her twice and missed. The policeman then shot one of the gunmen dead. The other two escaped.

The hit squads, called Sparrows because of their swift attacks, have claimed responsibility for 22 out of more than 50 murders of police, soldiers and civilians in the past few weeks.

Hanoi names new leaders

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Vietnam named a new prime minister and a new president to replace the last of the legendary leaders who helped found the Indochinese Communist Party and guided Vietnam to victory in wars with Japan, France and the United States.

Pham Hung succeeds Pham Van Dong, 79, who served as prime minister since 1955. Vo Chi Cong was appointed to the largely ceremonial post of president in place of Truong Chinh, 80, held the office since 1981 and was a leading political figure for several decades.

Hung and Cong, both veteran revolutionaries in their mid-70s, were named on the second day of the new National Assembly's opening session, the Voice of Vietnam radio said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok.

Within the senior leadership, Dong and Chinh were the last of the small group of revolutionaries who helped independence leader Ho Chi Minh found the Indochinese Communist Party in 1930.

Following tradition, the top government and state posts went to senior members of the Communist Party's politburo.

World press watchdog slams Singapore curbs

SINGAPORE (R) — A world press freedom watchdog said Friday that Singapore had spurned its call to roll back "chilling" curbs on some publications.

A four-man team from the World Press Freedom Committee met Information Minister Yeo Ning Hong to discuss Singapore's recently-tightened press laws, saying government-imposed circulation cuts had "sadly tarnished" Singapore's image.

The group said that action by Singapore raised fears that it may later act similarly against all publications.

"The chilling effect on the media is already apparent — and may well spur doubts on the part of those abroad doing business or contemplating investments in Singapore," the committee said in a statement.

Earlier this year Singapore cut the circulation of the Asian Wall Street Journal to 400 copies daily from 5,600 and last year reduced that of Time magazine to 2,000 from 18,000 after objecting to their coverage of Singapore.

Peru halts search for plane with 46 on board

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The Peruvian Air Force has suspended its search for a plane carrying 46 people that apparently crashed in the jungle in northern Peru, the military said.

The Soviet-made Antonov-26 personnel carrier with six crewmen and 40 civilian passengers aboard was declared missing Thursday after it failed to reach its destination in Saposoa, 600 kilometres north east of Lima, the capital, the official Andina News Agency reported.

Andina, quoting from an air force communiqué, said the plane left Lima, the capital, at 8:12 a.m. (1312 GMT) bound for Saposoa, located on the jungle-

clad eastern slopes of the Andes. It never arrived.

Late Thursday night, the air force announced it was calling off its search until daylight because of heavy rain in the region where the plane was believed to have gone down.

Andina said the 40 passengers were civilians and the plane was providing "civic" support. It did not elaborate.

From Saposoa the plane was to have flown to Trujillo, west of Saposoa on the Peruvian coast, and from there to Iquitos, in the Amazon jungle 1,150 kilometres north east of the capital, Andina reported.

Australia's opposition faces another setback

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's Conservative opposition, fighting an uphill election battle, faced a controversy Friday within its own ranks over a possible error in its major tax-cutting programme.

A spokesman for the opposition Liberal Party said it was re-examining the programme, which forms the cornerstone of the party's economic strategy to oust the Labour Party in the July 11 general election.

Some opposition members said there appeared to be errors in the plan, but the spokesman declined to comment further.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, seeking his third successive term, said the opposition had made the election campaign one of the easiest he has experienced.

He told a radio interviewer: "I've never felt more physically and mentally relaxed (during an election). We've no problems at all."

On the Liberal tax plan he said: "The whole thing is so deceitful... (Liberal leader John) Howard has made a mess of it. If they can't govern themselves, how can they expect to govern the country?"

Australian Treasurer Paul Keating has said the opposition miscalculated tax and expenditure cuts by several billion dollars and its scheme would sharply increase the budget deficit to more than nine billion dollars (\$6.5 billion).

Japan and Boeing take responsibility for crash

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese government and U.S. aircraft maker Boeing both took responsibility Friday for the crash of a Japan Air Lines (JAL) Boeing 747 in which 520 died.

An official government report, released Friday, said faulty repairs to the plane in 1978 by the Boeing company and inadequate inspection by Transport Ministry inspectors caused the crash, the worst single air disaster in aviation history.

The one clear cause was the faulty repair work by Boeing, said Shun Takeda, the Ministry of Transport official leading the government's Accident Investigation Committee.

But the report also criticised the Japanese inspectors for not

checking the repairs properly before signing a clearance document.

In a separate statement issued in Tokyo, Boeing said it had not been the final report but agreed with an earlier similar draft report that the accident was caused by the incorrect repairs, which remained undetected during scheduled inspections.

Boeing said it had made tests and provided equipment for aircraft to ensure that a similar accident could not happen again.

Transport Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters: "Repair instructions themselves were appropriate. If the repair work had been done faithfully to the instructions, the accident would not have occurred."

Soviets announce amnesty on revolution anniversary

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union proclaimed an amnesty for Soviet prisoners Friday to mark the 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. It did not specify which categories of detainees were included.

The official news agency TASS said the amnesty had been decreed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the agency said. A TASS spokesman said details of the decree would be published in the government newspaper Izvestia.

An amnesty marking the 60th anniversary of the 1917 revolution was hedged with complicated restrictions which excluded most jailed dissidents from its effect.

The 1977 decree allowed all women, minors, war veterans and persons who had received state awards to be released if their sentences were less than five years. If more than five, the sentences were halved.

The 60th anniversary decree did not cover such serious offences as murder and assault, or "especially dangerous crimes against the state," which included anti-Soviet agitation, treason and organising such activity.

Friday's amnesty followed an announcement by Kremlin authorities last February that 150 political dissidents had been pardoned.

Meanwhile a close adviser of the Kremlin leader was quoted Thursday as saying Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev faces opposition to some generals to his reforms.

Valentin Falin, the chief of the state-run Novosti Press Service, was quoted as saying that some military officers could not come to terms with Mr. Gorbachev's "new thinking."

Falin, in an interview with the Munich-based newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung, said the generals will have to accept Mr. Gorbachev's ideas, "but for many it will not be easy."

Falin did not identify any of the generals.

Falin said there were three main groups opposed to Mr. Gorbachev's reforms. One of the groups represented people who have been "disappointed so many times in the past" that they cannot believe in any new reforms, Falin was quoted as saying.

The second group was made up of "small power holders who have been sitting comfortably in ministries and are now against any renewal." The third group was described by Falin as "dogmatists" who were in principle opposed to any new ideas.

"These people are not our enemies and we have to try to convince them. We have to work with them because we are not in a situation to import people who think differently," he was quoted as saying.

Falin, asked if Mr. Gorbachev would have enough energy to carry through his reforms, replied: "Yes, I'm sure. The man is only beginning to show what potential he has."

In a separate development U.S. Information Agency (USIA) Director Charles Wick said Thursday the Soviet Union has invited U.S. psychiatrists to inspect mental hospitals that critics say are used to persecute political dissidents.

In an interview with Reuters, he also said the Kremlin under Mr. Gorbachev appeared to be genuine in its drive for political and economic reform, although

the Buenos Aires suburb of Moron also ruled the law unconstitutional in the case of a paramilitary agent accused of human rights atrocities at a prison hospital. The man had claimed he should benefit from the law because he took orders from a military superior.

The measure, passed by Congress at the behest of President Raul Alfonsin and signed into law on June 8, says officers and security agents ranked brigadier general and below are to be absolved of any wrongdoing if they can prove they were following superiors' orders.

The rulings now are subject to supreme court interpretation. Court sources say the five-member board is expected to rule in favour of the law's constitutionality next week.

Under the "due obedience" law, an estimated 200 of the 250 officers accused of thousands of cases of abduction, torture and murder of suspected leftists during the "dirty war" of 1976-83 are to be freed from prosecution.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Rice refuses to discuss affair with Hart

NEW YORK (R) — Model Donna Rice, whose relationship with Gary Hart ended his bid for the U.S. presidency, refused to say in an interview whether she had ever slept with the former Colorado senator. "No, I don't want to answer you because it's a question of dignity," she said in an interview on ABC Television when asked if she had an affair with Mr. Hart. "Whether I did, whether I didn't, with Gary Hart or anyone else, I wouldn't answer it one way or another." Ms. Rice, 29, who said she was not paid for the interview, her first since Mr. Hart abandoned his candidacy on May 8 because of the scandal over the relationship, said the most difficult part of the controversy had been its effect on her parents. "The most painful thing for me has been to see what this does to my parents," said Ms. Rice. "They've always been so proud of me and they've been just, it's been horrible for them. It's been a real trial." Ms. Rice was romantically linked to Hart, 50, in a Miami Herald story in April which said she had spent a weekend at Mr. Hart's Washington townhouse. Mr. Hart has been married for 28 years and has two children. Although both Mr. Hart and Ms. Rice said they were just casual friends, a flood of media attention and a trip the two had earlier taken to Bimini aboard a yacht forced him to withdraw his candidacy for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. Ms. Rice said she did not feel anger toward Mr. Hart over the scandal.

Couple unhappy after striking oil

ROCKHAMPTON, Queensland (R) — Most people would be delighted if they struck oil in their back garden. Not Dick and Irene Stevensen — they wanted water. The Stevensens, who farm a small property in the parched Australian outback, put every cent of their savings into drilling a bore hole. Down and down they drilled until, at 1,170 metres, they struck water. Sadly, the supply was little more than a trickle and the Stevensens went away to think about what to do next. When they returned, the trickle had turned black — oil. Petroleum analysts are testing the quality and quantity of the supply. But whatever their findings, the Stevensens will not be pleased. "Dick and I are not very happy about the situation. We don't want to be millionaires," Irene said. "We wanted water for our cattle, not oil. What can you do with that?"

British firemen rescue pony

BRIDGWATER, England (R) — when a Shetland pony got stuck in a family's first-floor bedroom, the answer was: Call the fire brigade. The Shetland — a small breed of pony — bolted upstairs from the household garden, where it was being groomed, and refused to budge, despite pulling and pushing by owner Donna Walford and her family. So they called in fire brigade rescue specialists, who got the pony to go downstairs by blindfolding it. "I've come across cats up trees and old ladies stuck in the bath but never a pony trapped in a bedroom," said a fire brigade spokesman in this south west England town.

Fans want lifelike Beatles statue

LONDON (R) — Fans of the Beatles have said they wanted to erect a lifelike bronze sculpture of the former pop group, complete with juke box, in London's Leicester Square. The vice-chairman of the Beatles Appreciation Society, John-James Chambers, said they hoped to get planning permission for the statue, but a spokesman for the local municipal authority said no application had been received yet.

Man loses organ to wife with razor

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladeshi had his penis cut off by his wife after he was caught trying sexual tricks learned from "blue movies" on a prostitute, police have said. They said the wife grew suspicious when 28-year-old bank employee Nazir Uddin watched pornographic movies for three nights with a friend. On the fourth night, she found him at a prostitute's house on the outskirts of Dhaka, bought a razor from a nearby shop and sliced off his penis, police said. People in the neighbourhood rushed Uddin to hospital and handed over his wife to police. The prostitute ran away.

Singer offers \$1m for 'elephant man'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Singer Michael Jackson has doubled his offer to \$1 million for the remains of the "elephant man", the grotesquely deformed Englishman John Merrick who died in 1900. Jackson's manager has said. Jackson has become a student of Merrick and is absorbed in the ethical, medical and historical significance of the remains, the manager, Frank Dileo, said. Merrick's remains are kept at the London Hospital Medical College, which rejected Jackson's original offer several months ago. The 28-year-old singer has been to the hospital twice to view the remains, Dileo said. "The money paid by Jackson could be used by the hospital to care for and aid people in need," he added.

Actress wears \$1.8m wedding gown

SYDNEY (R) — A diamond-encrusted wedding gown stole the show when Japan's highest paid celebrity, pop singer Hiromi Go, married a 21-year-old actress. The \$1.8 million dress, which was delivered to the bride, Yurie Nitani, by armed guards, drew gasps from the 300 invited guests and international media at a Sydney hotel. Outside the hotel dozens of screaming fans went wild when Go arrived for the wedding which was televised live in Japan. The couple, who had already been married in a traditional Japanese ceremony, were invited to marry again in Sydney by the Australian Tourism Department which wants to promote the country as a honeymoon destination for Asian couples. Champagne flowed freely throughout the five-course wedding dinner. An entree of Sushi was the only taste of Japan in an otherwise traditional display of European haute cuisine. A spokesman for the organisers compared the wedding to a royal occasion and said it was "one of the most spectacular ever staged in Australia."

Police arrest groom at wedding party

ROSENBERG, Texas (AP) — Police trying to quell a fracas at a wedding reception arrested the groom and eight other people. The police "ruined everything. They ruined the whole party," said the bride, Leticia Castaneda Ariaga, 18, who fainted during the melee Saturday night. The groom, Pete Ariaga, and other members of the wedding party contended at least one of the about 250 people attended. "We're taking some statements and we hope to wrap it up," Fort Bend County Sheriff Gus George said Tuesday. "All we can do is use good judgment and then stand by it." Felicia Ariaga, the groom's mother, said there was a problem trying to get security guards for the dance. So one of the bride's brothers, Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Fred Gonzales, began when Gonzales asked one of the guests for identification when he ordered a beer. George said Gonzales then asked about 24 officers from the sheriff's office and local police department rushed in. "It got out of hand," George said. The groom and his two brothers, Lawrence Ariaga and Modesto Ariaga, were charged with resisting arrest. They were released Sunday on a personal recognisance bond set by the same justice of the peace who presided over the wedding.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND ORIAN SEARIS
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IT IS FOR TEMPO

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 4654
♥ 7654
♦ A82
♣ 72

WEST EAST
♠ A Q 108 ♠ 973
♥ 9 ♥ 1032
♦ Q 764 ♦ 1038
♣ K Q J 4 ♣ 10985

SOUTH
♠ K2
♥ A K Q J 8
♦ K53
♣ A65

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Double 2♥ Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

Timing is a vital ingredient in many of the plays we have described in our bridge player's dictionary. Whether you are a tempo ahead or behind can be of key importance in how you tackle a hand. Here is an example of what a difference one tempo can make, from George Coflin's "Bridge Play from A to Z."

A routine auction landed North-South in four hearts. Note the fact that North, with a defensive trick and four-card support for his partner's opening bid, raised despite West's takeout double; that is

standard practice today. Against four hearts, West led the king of clubs. This would have been the wrong time to employ H for Holdup. West might shift to a diamond at trick two, and the defenders would be a tempo ahead in the race to establish the pivotal trick. Declarer would not be able to do any better than nine-tricks, for the defenders would collect two spades, a club and a diamond before declarer could find a 10th trick.

Declarer edged ahead in the contest for the key trick by the simple expedient of winning the first trick. After drawing trumps in three rounds, he set about establishing a spade trick in dummy by leading low from his hand. West took his queen of spades and shifted to a diamond, but it was too late. Declarer won in hand and continued with the king of spades to West's ace. The dummy's jack of spades was set up for a discard while the ace of diamonds was still on the table as an entry.

As the cards lie, the contract could have been defeated with a diamond opening lead as long as the defenders persevere with the suit whenever they gain the lead. But the king of clubs is the natural lead from the West hand. Anything else would lead to raised eyebrows at the very least.